



Maryland Council
Military Officers Association of America
Meeting Minutes
4 May 2014

Members Present:

John Whitman, President
Norm Taylor, Immediate Past President
Harvey Kaplan, 2nd Vice President MDCOC
Greg Dalke, Treasurer
James Pede, Secretary
Dave Peterson, MDCOC Director, President, Montgomery County Chapter
Jim Dittbrenner, TOPS
Eleanor Layman, Auxiliary
Bill Benson, President, Upper Potomac Chapter
Mike Rhoden, President, General Smallwood Chapter
Reggie Sealey, Prince Georges Chapter
Jim Shellem, Past President Upper Eastern Shore Chapter
Warren Prince, Southern MD Chapter
Jim Shellem, Upper Eastern Shore

Members Absent:

Andrew Fallon, 1st Vice President MDCOC, President, Annapolis Chapter
Jack Fringer, Legislative Chair
Jim Shiffrin, Webmaster, President Ft Meade Chapter
Jeff Brock, President, Susquehanna Chapter
Mike DeHaemer, President, Baltimore Chapter

The Maryland Council of Chapters met 4 May 2014 at Noon in the Guy C. Parlett Post 7 of the American Legion in Annapolis, Maryland. Council President Maj John Whitman opened with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes: MDCOC meeting minutes from February were presented by Maj Pede. Open items were highlighted and the council agreed to close the issue of refunds for the 2013 legislative lunch noting that the General Smallwood chapter returned funds to the council. CAPT Peterson asked that the open item regarding the veterans treatment task force report remain open stating he intends to distribute further information at a later date.

Vietnam 50th Anniversary: Maj Whitman introduced Fred Shinbur of Maryland Public Television (MPT). MPT will be saluting Vietnam Veterans with a special commemoration and special activities through 2018. A three hour documentary is also planned. "LZPimlico" will be a highlight of the celebration.

Maryland Veterans Commission: CAPT Peterson discussed the email he sent everyone on the Veteran Re-entry Associate Program. The MDVA is recruiting volunteers to serve as Associates, similar to mentors, to incarcerated veterans within six months of release and who

will be returning to the Baltimore area. Associates will mentor for 12 months post release while supporting a successful transition to the community. The Veteran Re-Entry Associate Program is supported by the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. He asked that all presidents distribute the information asking for volunteers.

CAPT Peterson also reviewed the results of the 15 April Vet's Courts meeting. He raised concern over the list of offenses and the issue of domestic violence, among others. He has been told that PG County will be the model for the state. Chapters can ask for luncheon briefings on the initiative.

Treasurer's Report: CDR Greg Dalke provided the Treasurer's Report (Atch 1) telling all this is a transitional period. The \$8500 in CDs will be moved to NFCU at the end of May. He explained problems encountered with the BB&T dormant account policy and fees accrued for returned checks. Five chapters have paid dues, one chapter was very late but did pay. Several chapters are still outstanding and CDR Dalke offered to talk with any chapter in arrears.

TOPS: Jim Dittbrenner provided the TOPS report (Atch 2) highlighting the fact that Maryland One Stop Career Centers can no longer work with the bulk of injured veterans. He pointed out that even a 40% rating is not enough and that veterans must present "significant" handicap for consideration. He also reported that the Business And Networking Group (BANG) is established in Montgomery County, Aberdeen, and Fort Meade. Chapter presidents were asked again to help by seeking volunteers to expand the program.

Maryland Retired Veterans Task Force: Maj Whitman reported that Attorney General and Democratic candidate for Governor of Maryland, Doug Gansler, supports the \$50K Maryland subtraction from income for retired veterans. Maj Whitman reminded all that the benefit study of second career folks in Maryland is now 11 years old and needs to be updated. He encouraged everyone to attend any venue where candidates can be asked about their support of the tax initiative.

Levels of Excellence Award: Maj Whitman provided the first draft to COL Fallon and Col Kaplan for review. Final edition should be ready by 1 June deadline. He reminded chapter presidents that chapter versions are due as well.

Legislative Lunch: The lunch this year will be held 11 Sep 2014 in Rm 2168 of the Rayburn Bldg at 11:30.

Auxiliary Affairs: Eleanor Layman reported that she provided the MOAA letter requesting legislative communications to folks in her area. The letter was asking the membership to contact their representative and senator regarding proposed cuts to the military budget and personnel strength. She reported that many received replies from Representative Sarbanes.

Vet Sail: Col Shellem, Upper Eastern Shore Chapter, discussed their Vets Sail activity. The event is focused on Water Reed and Ft Belvoir soldiers. The event includes sailing, dinner and cocktails etc. Due to the cost of transportation the event will not take place this year. COL Fallon offered to approach the Annapolis sailing community for sponsorship.

Honor Flight: Maj Whitman provided the most current Honor Flight schedule and encouraged all chapters to participate as best they can.

MOAA Streamers: Somewhere, somehow, the 2011 5 Star Chapter streamer is missing. CAPT Taylor moved that the streamer be repurchased by the council. The motion was seconded and vote unanimous. OPEN

New Chapter: Maj Whitman raised the issue of establishing a Western Maryland Chapter which would include “the tri-state area” of western Maryland. Specifically Oakland, Frostburg, and other areas. He will provide more information in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 1504. The next MD MOAA Council meeting will be held 27 October 2014 during the Annual Meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington.

JAMES PEDE, Maj, USAF Ret
MD Council Secretary